

32153 and 32154. CONVULVULUS spp.**Rose-root.**

From Puerto Orotava, Teneriffe, Canary Islands. Presented by Dr. George V. Perez. Received November 23, 1911.

Seeds of the following:

32153. CONVULVULUS FLORIDUS L. f.**Rose-root.**

"One of the most interesting and striking plants in the Canary Islands is this shrubby *Convolvulus*, known locally as *guadil*. This, together with a closely allied species, *C. scoparius*, is sometimes known as rose-root and is said to yield oil of roses. The *guadil* is, however, more interesting as an ornamental flowering shrub than for any economic purposes to which at one time it may have been applied. It belongs to the bindweed order (*Convolvulaceæ*), although nothing can be less like a *Convolvulus* in habit, and is one of the comparatively few examples of this order (containing the jalap plant, the sweet potato, the scammony, and the showy ipomoeas), possessing an upright stem and a treelike habit. It may be described as a compact shrub from 4 to 6 feet in height, with a stout woody stem and numerous branches. The branches, especially in the young state, are white powdered, as also are the abundant linear undulate leaves. The latter are about 3 or 4 inches long, attenuated toward the petiole, with rounded and somewhat emarginate tips. The flowers are abundantly produced in large loose terminal panicles. The sepals are ovate acuminate, about 2 lines long. The corolla is about one-half to three-quarters of an inch in diameter and pure white. The capsule is conical and slightly villose at the apex. When in flower the plant appears as if covered with newly fallen snow. It is one of the few native plants which awakens the enthusiasm of local residents of Teneriffe. According to Dr. Perez the *guadil* was an object of high regard by the Guanches, the aboriginal race of the island. This can well be understood, for when in flower it is one of the brightest and most attractive objects in the Teneriffe landscape. The pale powdered green of the leaves forms an excellent background for the masses of pure white flowers. The only pity is it is so rarely seen. In the search for rose-roots for export purposes this and the allied species have been nearly exterminated in the wild state. In Teneriffe it grows from sea level up to elevations of about 1,000 feet. It evidently prefers a free porous soil and thrives in exposed situations on rocks and slopes. In rich soil the plant appears to put on a looser habit and when laden with flowers the panicles become almost pendulous. It is readily increased by seed, and as it is a fast grower it should flower in the second or third year." (Extract from D. Morris, *Kew Bulletin of Miscellaneous Information*, 1893, pp. 133-134.)

32154. CONVULVULUS SCOPARIUS L. f.**Rose-root.**

"This, as its name denotes, is a *Convolvulus* with the habit of the common broom. It is an erect shrub 7 to 8 feet high with a few long narrow branches and somewhat short linear leaves. The flowers are produced in many flowered axillary cymes. The corolla is slightly plaited with a 5-partite limb; it is tinged with red outside and white within. This is known locally as *Leña Noel* or *Leña Loel*. It is only rarely met with; Teneriffe specimens in the Kew Herbarium are from Guia on the southwestern slopes of the island and from Barranco Santo. It is said to be more common at Palma, but owing to the excessive digging of the roots many years ago for export purposes it is restricted to very few localities.

"There is a single specimen of the root of *Convolvulus scoparius* in the Kew Museum. It is about 8 inches long, 2½ inches wide, and 1 inch thick. The heartwood occupies about three-fourths of the entire diameter of the specimen and is of a distinct orange-yellow color, very dense, marked by closely lying